



– For Immediate Release –
Wednesday, January 21, 2009

IIMPACT investigation results in long prison sentences for two convicted human smugglers

Case involved 25 illegal aliens held in a West Valley drop house

Two illegal immigrants have each been sentenced to 26 years in prison for their roles in operating a Phoenix area drop house. Alfonso Lopez-Millan, 51, and Efrin Osuna-Chavez, 42, were both sentenced on January 15, 2009. On December 15, 2008, both were convicted of three counts of class 2 dangerous kidnapping, three counts of class 2 dangerous extortion, one count of class 3 dangerous aggravated assault, and one count of class 4 human smuggling. All are felonies. A total of seven human smugglers, including Lopez-Millan and Osuna-Chavez, were found inside of the home. The five others pled guilty and received sentences ranging from seven years to four years. .

On Nov. 10, 2007, IIMPACT detectives interviewed a victim who had escaped from a drop house where she was being held until she paid ransom money for being smuggled into the country. The victim told detectives she was threatened by her captors who were armed with guns and clubs. IIMPACT located the drop house near 99th Avenue and West Indian School Road. The DPS Special Operations Unit entered the home and rescued 25 illegal immigrants who were being held. One man was found in the house tied up, beaten and bloody.

“Hopefully these long prison sentences send a message to the cartels operating in Mexico that doing illegal business in Arizona comes at a very high price. The very hard work by IIMPACT made all the difference in getting this conviction,” said Roger Vanderpool, director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety

IIMPACT (Illegal Immigration Prevention & Apprehension Co-op Team) is a multi-agency project managed by GIITEM of the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) that is designed to address rising crime associated with illegal immigration. IIMPACT is comprised of personnel from DPS, Phoenix Police, ICE and the Arizona Fraudulent Identification Task Force (AFIT). As the name implies, local, state and federal police agencies combine forces to impact international human smuggling organizations operating in Arizona.

Press Inquiries:

PO BOX 6638 | Phoenix, AZ 85005-6638 | www.azdps.gov | pio@azdps.gov